

Green Community Task Force Minutes
January 4, 2012

Present: Members D. Blatt, Z. Cutting, S. DiCampo, J. McQuaid, N. Sullivan
Advisors M. Benson, J. Londa

1. Meeting called to order at 7:09 P.M. The minutes from 11/2/11 were approved.
2. Solar Landfill Project: Borrego has the contract back from Town Counsel and should hear from Unitil by 1/14/12 regarding the interconnect. On 10/18/12 the estimated cost to upgrade the power lines was \$200,000.00 but they will be giving a more accurate cost soon. The project size is still at 1.5 MW. The Development Plan Review needs to proceed through the Planning Board to the Building Inspector. The site includes both Commercial and Residential zones.
3. The THMS solar project has produced 56 kW of power at a savings of \$10,000.00.
4. Pilgrim Baptist Church is going forward with their proposed solar project to the Planning Board on 1/9/12 and will hold a Public Hearing on 1/13/12.
3. MASS PV1 on Chase Road is negotiating a financial agreement with the Town called the Pilot Program where they would pay the Town \$24,000.00 in lieu of taxes.
4. M. Benson submitted town warrants from Lancaster and Townsend regarding the Stretch Code for our review.
5. Green Community Act: Our directive from the Board of Selectmen is to make additional public presentations to address unanswered questions regarding the pros and cons of adopting the Stretch Code, the availability of HERS raters, necessity and cost. The material needs to be covered in more depth prior to the vote and appeal to a great global vested interest.

D. Blatt will write a series of articles for the Ledger addressing "What is in it for you, the taxpayer". They will start in late March. J. Londa stressed that there is indeed a financial impact to the Town through savings in energy reduction and grants to achieve that goal. An informational sheet on energy produced and savings realized from the THMS solar project would reinforce that point.
6. Questions Raised:
 - What can the Task Force accomplish without funds?
 - What new projects would we pursue with funding?
 - Can the money be matched to increase its' effectiveness?
 - How to best educate the townspeople, the Town Committees and Officials (Board of Selectmen, Finance, Planning, Conservation)?
 - Will the HERS raters reduce the work load for the Building Inspector?

7. Task Force Members are asked to formulate a list of new initiatives. Suggestions include:
Devens Recycling Center, MassSave/Unitil, public presentations on energy efficiency, solar projects and wind turbines, DYI projects.
8. New Business: J. Londa said without additional funding he could look into Energy Performance Contracts to help reduce cost. The Town does not have to invest any money up front but the contracted company would get all the financial benefits from revenue generated.
9. Next meeting will be 2/6/12 at 7:00 P.M. at the Ritter Building.
Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne McQuaid